

REMARKS

In the above referenced case, claims 233-235, 239-249, 253-263, 267-277, and 281-288 are pending. Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner.

I. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 233-234, 236-248, 250-262, 264-276 and 278-288 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Atarashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,172,254 (“ATARASHI”) in view of Baur et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,115,305 (“BAUR”).

A. Independent Claims 233, 247, 261, and 275

Independent claims 233, 247, 261, and 275 have been amended to add additional elements [h] and [i] which are not disclosed or suggested in ATARASHI and/or BAUR.

These additional elements are supported by at least Figures 20A and 20B and the corresponding text in the original Specification.¹

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

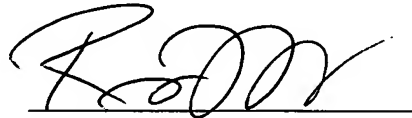
¹ Of course, the embodiments illustrated in the Figures and/or described in the Specification are merely exemplary. Therefore, the scopes of the claims should not be construed to cover only the exemplary embodiments illustrated and/or described.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Roxana H. Yang
Registration No. 46,788

PATENTESQUE LAW GROUP, LLP
P.O. Box 400
Los Altos, CA 94023
(650) 948-0822